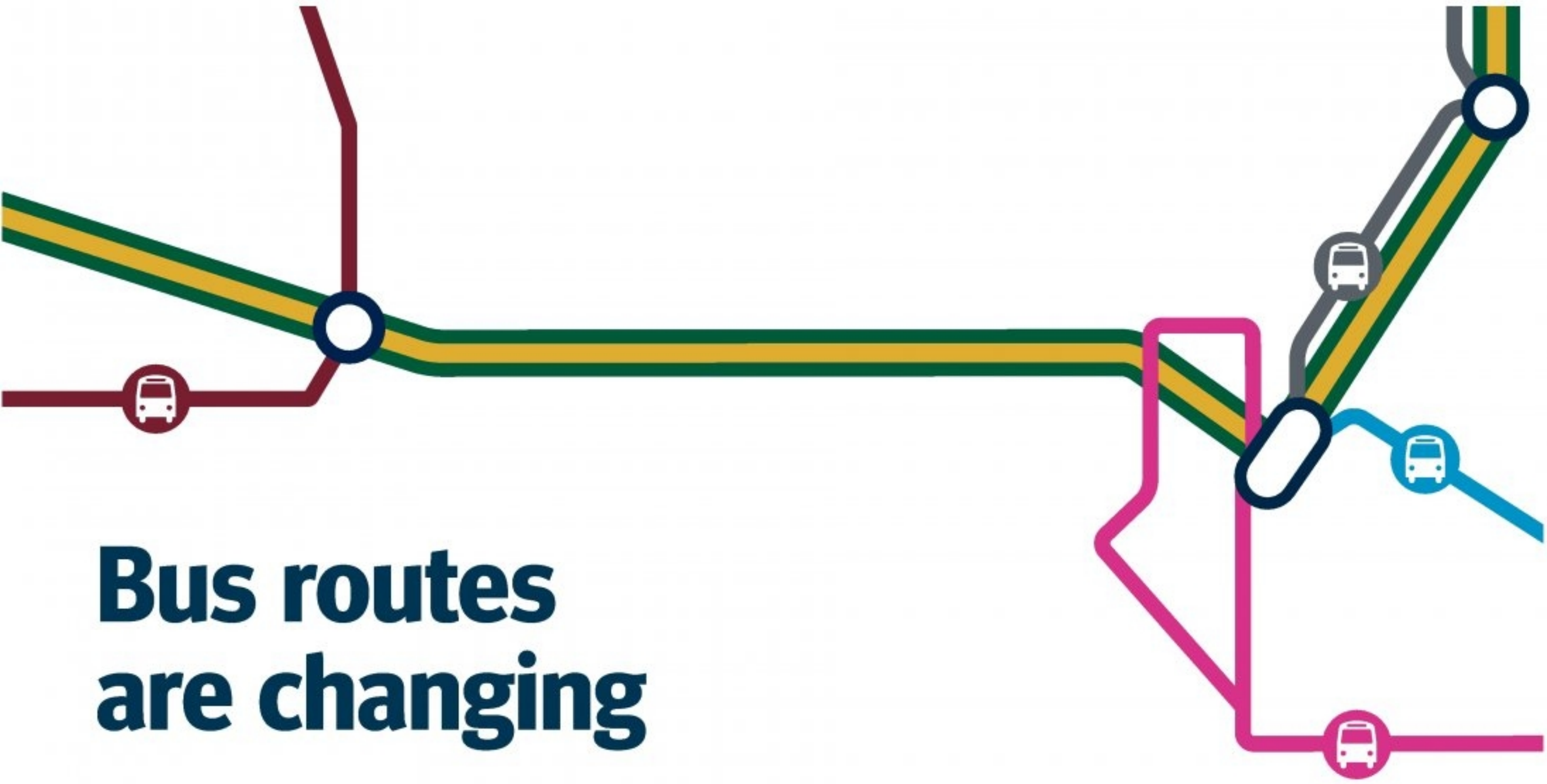
Vancouver metro

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2016



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Vancouver metro

essential daily news | WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2016

High 2°C/Low -3°C Mostly sunny

FINAL MOMENTS

Inside the terror in Aleppo, metroNEWS

ILLUSTRATION BY ANDRES PLANA/METRO

What happened to Burnaby's rental housing?
metroNEWS

'CHILDREN CAN'T STOP THEIR LEARNING'
New West schools chart a new path for immigrants
metroNEWS

Vancouver passes property tax hike to deal with overdose crisis
metroNEWS

SURE, WE'RE A FIT CITY, BUT ARE WE HEALTHY?
metroNEWS

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metro NEWS
Your essential daily news
Task force calls for national age for legalized recreational pot smoking to be set at 18. Canada

New West schools ponder policy

UNDOCUMENTED KIDS

B.C. districts vary in interpreting of residency rules

David P. Ball
Metro | Vancouver

Guatemalan asylum-seekers Kimberly Godinez and Jose Azurdia, with their two youngest children, hold a photo of their seven-year-old daughter, who recently enrolled in a school despite the family's lack of immigration documents. DAVID P. BALL/METRO

Last week, New Westminster residents Kimberly Godinez and Jose Azurdia got their seven-year-old daughter's first Canadian report card.

"It was amazing what the teacher said about her," Godinez, a 32-year-old former elementary teacher herself, boasted. "Even we were surprised."

Her husband, 34, chimed in, proudly telling Metro the teacher praised their daughter's progress in English and math, her ability to make friends, and her confidence in public speaking.

"She loves to do show-and-tell," he said, laughing. "She loves her teacher. She tells me, 'Please never take me out of school.'"

The seven-year-old's fear is real; she almost wasn't allowed into Grade 2 at all.

That's because her Guatemalan parents are in Canada without authorization. They said they're refugees from their country, persecuted with death and kidnapping threats after Azurdia filed a complaint about a politician he alleged was embezzling public funds in 2014. The last straw, he said, was being pursued and shot at from a car earlier this year.

But because they arrived in Canada via the U.S. — under federal law considered a "safe third country" — their refugee request was denied at the border. So three days later, they sneaked across on foot and filed an asylum request. They became what some derogatorily call "illegals," but are known to authorities because they applied for a Pre-Removal Risk Assessment.

"We had to find somewhere where our kids can be safe," he insisted. "We hoped to receive help here."

As the school year approached, they found themselves unable to register for school because they had no status and authorities seized their passports. But though their story is unique, it's a barrier faced by children whose parents aren't citizens or permanent residents, but aren't tourists or international students either.

Like the Mexican family in Langley for nine years profiled by Metro earlier this week — whose Canadian-citizen kids were refused enrolment because of an immigration paperwork "glitch" — these families live full-time in their school's catchment area and intend to stay.

For the vice-chair of the New Westminster School Board — trustee Mark Gifford — the situation facing families like Azurdia and Godinez's spurred a "healthy conversation" about creating an official welcoming policy in the district.

"We're still in progress in looking at what's possible in New Westminster," he told Metro. "We've been excited to engage and to better ensure that all children feel safe, welcome and secure in our schools."

However, although he said a policy welcoming all residents regardless of their immigration status might help, Gifford isn't yet convinced that's even needed because the B.C. School Act is unambiguous: nowhere does it require citizenship or immigration for registration, only that students be "ordinarily resident" of the district — a clause the Ministry of Education confirmed to Metro in an email.

But in New Westminster, at least, a conversation is underway.

It wasn't until the Azurdia Godinez family approached advocates with the group Sanctuary Health that the New Westminster School District finally allowed their daughter into classes on Sept. 15 — pending review after a year, however.

"In Guatemala she was in school and she needs to continue her studies," Godinez said. "Children can't stop their learning."

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PUBLIC HEALTH

Paramedics grapple with fentanyl crisis

The fentanyl crisis in B.C. is not slowing down and paramedics say they are not receiving enough resources from the province to fight overdoses properly.

Scheduling problems caused 19 out of 60 ambulances in the Greater Vancouver area to sit idle last Friday, which is unacceptable given the dramatic number of overdoses in recent months, said the union representing the paramedics.

"When I see the reports from the last couple of weeks, and when I look at the out-of-service and not filled ambulances, there is a problem," said Paul Faoro, B.C. president of CUPE.

He says local governments should not have to dish out additional money to deal with a health crisis. The City of Vancouver passed a budget Tuesday that included a 0.5 per cent property tax increase specifically to address the fentanyl crisis.

When asked for comment, the Ministry of Health directed Metro's request to B.C. Emergency Health Services.

BCEHS says there were in fact only eight ambulances down Friday night and in fact, there were six and five extra cars on Saturday and Sunday.

"Our response times are exactly within 17 seconds of what we were doing last year so there's no issue in terms of our response times," said Linda Lupini, BCEHS vice-president. "We are actually over-staffing fairly regularly because of the opioid crisis."

The ambulance service received 10 extra cars and 54 extra full-time paramedics this year, she said.

But like many first responders, the opioid crisis is taking its toll on workers, said local CUPE representative, Bronwyn Barter.

"(The government) has basically been spreading our current resources extremely thin and on top of that, with the fentanyl crisis, they are even thinner — forced over time, burn out, mental and physical exhaustion."

WANYEE LI/METRO

Vancouver city council's latest budget has increased funding to tackle drug overdoses. ERIC DREGER/THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

City passes 2017 budget

MUNICIPAL POLITICS

More funding to deal with ODs, property taxes hiked

Jen St. Denis
Metro | Vancouver

Vancouver city council has passed its 2017 budget, with an extra property tax hike of 0.5 per cent to deal with the city's overdose crisis.

Property tax will be going up by 3.9 per cent this year, higher than the 3.4 per cent increase originally proposed. For a median single family home in the city, the 3.9 per cent increase will result in $83 being added to the property tax bill instead of the previously proposed 3.4 per cent, or $72, increase.

A median condo owner will pay $29 more in property tax and a median business property would pay $152 more.

The 0.5 per cent addition amounts to $11 a year more for a single-family home owner, $19 for a business property owner and $4 more for a condo owner.

Last week fire fighters had lobbied council for additional resources, saying crews stationed at Firehall No. 2 in the Downtown Eastside have been overwhelmed by the number of calls related to overdoses. Firefighters responded to 735 overdoses in that neighbourhood in November alone.

Overdoses have killed 622 British Columbians so far in 2016, with the number expected to climb higher as the crisis worsens. Synthetic opioids like fentanyl and the more powerful carfentanil are now often added to drugs like cocaine and heroin, causing more overdoses and increasing the chance that those overdoses will be fatal without immediate intervention.

The additional 0.5 per cent increase is expected to raise $3.5 million, which can be added to a $4-million contingency fund for a total of $7.5 million. That money will go towards a range of city initiatives, including increased overdose response training for city staff, a new community policing station in Strathcona, youth education and a drug treatment study. The memo includes the fire fighters' ask for an additional three-person medic crew, at a cost of $1.8 million.

NPA Coun. George Affleck voted against the budget, characterizing the $3.5 million as a "Vision Vancouver slush fund."

"It's a fund to be used at the will of the council, which has a majority of Vision Vancouver. Today, it's fentanyl — what will it be next week, or in an election year?"

Affleck said he favoured using existing unused funds from the 2016 budget, or challenging the federal and provincial governments to match $300,000 from the city.

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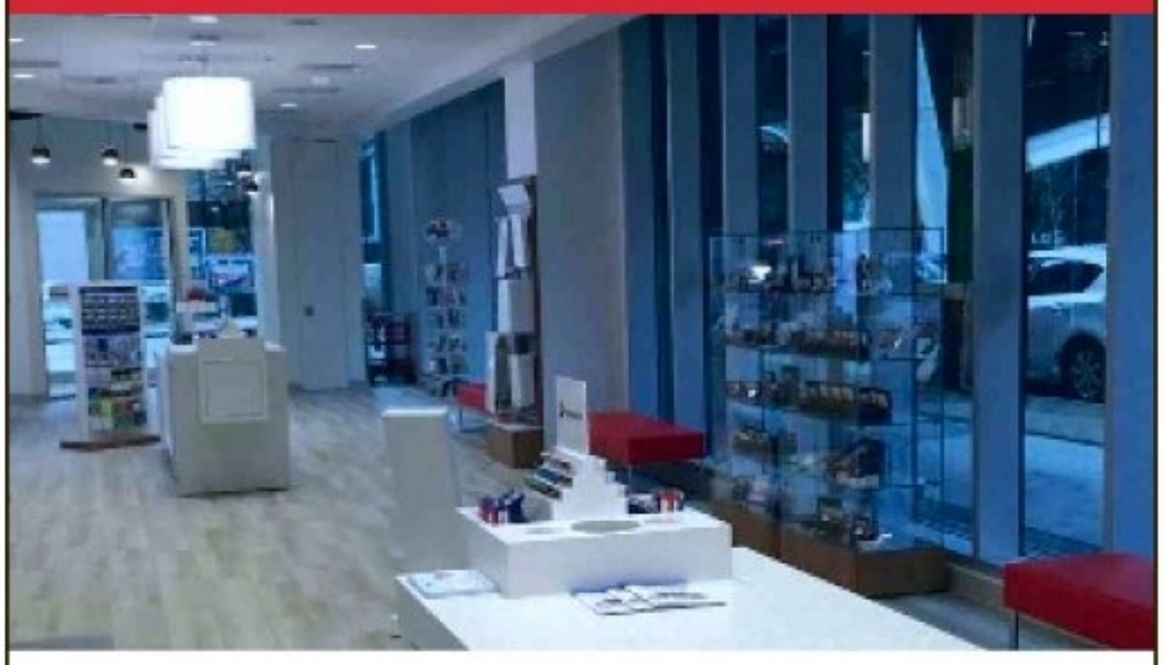

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Volunteers with Leadnow.ca at a rally for proportional representation outside of the Burnaby office of Liberal MP Terry Beech. STUART NEATBY/FOR METRO

Politician pushed on reform vows

BURNABY

Activists rally outside office over fears of lost interest

> There is a tendency for parties when they're in opposition to take up the banner of reform, only to abandon it as soon as they're elected. Max Cameron

Stuart Neatby
For Metro | Vancouver

Advocates for proportional representation staged a rally at the Burnaby office of Liberal MP Terry Beech on Tuesday, one week after the Liberal government launched an online survey on electoral reform that included no mention of any voting systems.

Twenty-five people attended the rally, co-ordinated by the online advocacy group Leadnow.ca. Beech was in Ottawa at the time but said in an emailed statement he was "interested in updating our laws for the benefit of all residents in Burnaby and North Vancouver."

Moreno Zanotto, who lives in Beech's riding of Burnaby-North Seymour, said he helped organize the rally in response to what he believed was the Liberal government's waning interest in electoral reform.

"Many people, including progressives, voted for the Liberal Party for this reason alone. So pulling away from it now is very concerning to us," said Zanotto.

Justin Trudeau promised during the 2015 election campaign that it would be the last held under a first-past-the-post system. However, Minister of Democratic Reform Maryam Monsef has drawn criticism for belittling the work of an all-party committee on the subject. Her ministry has since mailed 15 million postcards encouraging Canadians to participate in an online survey that does not include questions about alternatives to the current system.

Max Cameron, a UBC professor of political science, described the survey as "totally pointless." He said he supports change but was skeptical of the resolve of the Trudeau government to follow through on its promise.

"There is a tendency for parties when they're in opposition to take up the banner of reform, only to abandon it as soon as they're elected," he said.

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Abbotsford police sent out a controversial Christmas card to potential troublemakers in 2012. METRO FILE

ABBOTSFORD

PD warns suspects' families

David P. Ball
Metro | Vancouver

The British Columbia police force that once mailed gangsters and frequent offenders Christmas cards featuring Santa Claus in tactical gear with an automatic weapon is taking a more tactful tack this holiday season.

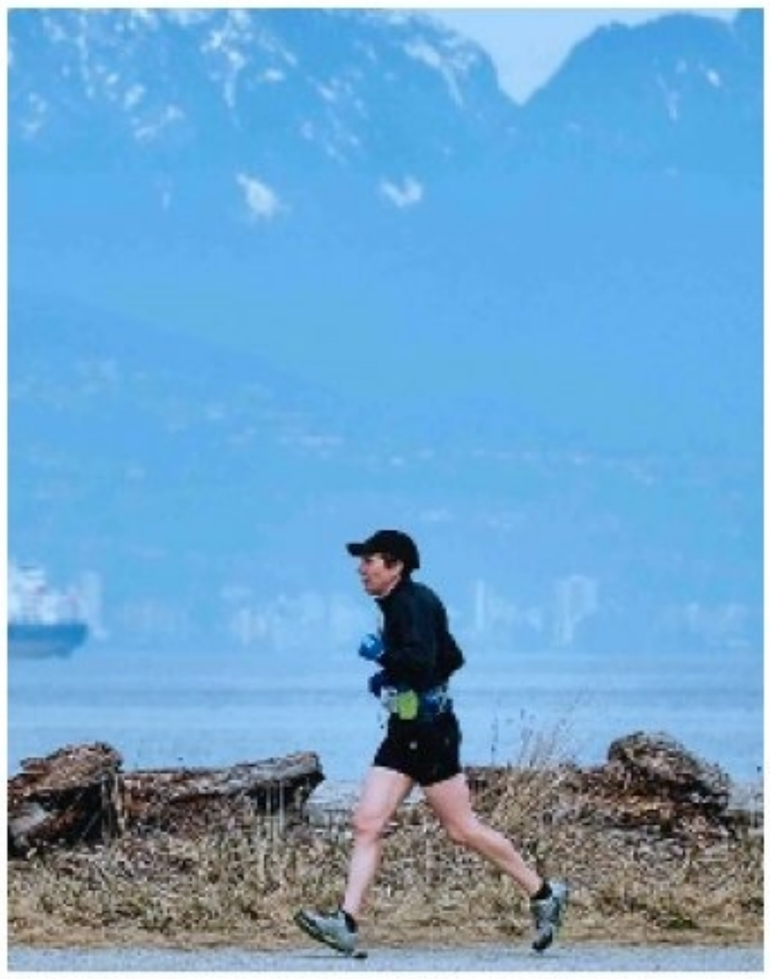
But the message in the letter Abbotsford Police Chief Bob Rich is mailing to family members of suspected gangsters this year is anything but soft.

"Your son's life is in critical danger," his letter reads. "If he stays involved in gangs, he is at serious risk of being killed. As a member of one of these gangs, your son's actions are causing other people to die."

An armed conflict between organized crime groups in the city's Townhill Line neighbourhood has so far claimed at least five lives.

The police letter asks parents who don't believe their son is involved to discuss the allegations with them.

"The letter is an earnest attempt to change the direction of the conflict and the lives of those involved," explained spokesman Const. Ian MacDonald in a statement Tuesday. "We want the violence to stop, and if you can provide information that will help us do that, you will be helping your community."



A woman jogs along Spanish Banks in Vancouver on March 13, 2014. JENNIFER GAUTHIER/METRO FILE

Healthy but not happy

RESEARCH

Vancouver ranks high for fitness, low for satisfaction

Jeff Hodson
Metro | Vancouver

We're a healthy, but not necessarily happy bunch.

Despite boasting the healthiest lifestyles in Canada, Vancouver finished below the middle of the pack in a ranking of health performance among Canadian cities.

Vancouver was sixth out of 10 Canadian cities and was graded a 'B' in the Conference Board of Canada's City Health Monitor.

Saskatoon ranked first, followed by Calgary in second and Winnipeg in third. Montreal was 10th.

Vancouver, a bastion of healthy living, ranked the best (or among the best) in a number of key indicators including obesity, physical activity, and smoking, but received bleak scores for perceived life satisfaction and access to health care.

"Vancouver residents are leading healthier lifestyles than any other metropolitan area, specifically when it comes to maintaining high levels of physical activity," said Louis Theriault, a vice-president with the Conference Board of Canada, in a press release Tuesday.

"However, perceived life satisfaction and indicators of access to health care played a role in dragging down the city's overall health ranking."

The City Health Monitor grades cities across four categories.

Vancouver finished first in population health because of low incidents of asthma and heart disease, and because there are relatively fewer people with diabetes and mood disorders. We were also tops in physical lifestyle category.

However, Vancouver was the worst of the 10 cities for perceived life satisfaction. We were also low in the health services category, with the lowest number of specialists per 100,000 people.

COMPARISON

City health rankings:
1) Saskatoon
2) Calgary
3) Winnipeg
4) Quebec City
5) Ottawa
6) Vancouver
7) Halifax
8) Edmonton
9) Toronto
10) Montreal

Mayors ask feds for fiscal power

GOVERNMENT

City heads request more resources for pay obligations

Matt Kieltyka
Metro | Vancouver

The mayors of Canada's biggest cities want more fiscal tools from the federal government to better control their destinies and growing responsibilities.

Vancouver's Gregor Robertson, Edmonton's Don Iveson, Calgary's Naheed Nenshi, Ottawa's Jim Watson and Toronto's John Tory penned an open letter to their federal and provincial counterparts Tuesday arguing growing cities are the financial engines of Canada but lack the financial firepower to keep up with an ever-growing number of demands.

"For too long, city governments have been required to rely on property taxes to support our growing operating budgets, with dollars stretched thinner and thinner as we serve the growing needs of the public," the letter reads.

The letter gives credit to the large stimulus of federal infrastructure funding being introducing by the Liberal government, but adds municipalities have been challenged to come of with their share because they lack the ability to implement and collect additional taxes and funding schemes.

"In Metro Vancouver, a lack of new funding tools has put a strain on property taxes and delayed crucial transit investment for years while residents deal with crammed buses and gridlocked commuters," the letter reads. The Metro Vancouver region recently approved a series of property tax and fare hikes to pay for the $2 billion first phase of a 10-year transit plan set out by the mayors.

> **For too long, city governments have been required to rely on property taxes along to support our growing operating budgets.**
> Letter from the mayors

A proposed regional sales tax to pay for the entire plan — which would have still needed approval from the provincial government — was rejected two years earlier in a B.C.-imposed plebiscite.

The City of Vancouver has also taken on federal and provincial responsibilities like building housing to address its affordability crisis and the fentanyl overdose crisis has added even more pressure on the city's budget.

While municipalities can make the case they don't receive a fair share of federal funding given their large tax bases, Simon Fraser University's Gordon Price, director of the school's City Program and former Vancouver councillor, believes this latest request is a tough sell.

"I just don't see it — unless there were a real shake up of the basic fiscal foundation of what the roles are for each level of government," Price said. "On the whole, (the current structure) has worked out pretty well for us. It would be hard to argue there is something fundamentally flawed about it."

Municipalities mostly deal with fixed costs for services like engineering, policing and fire fighting that are easily budgeted for and covered by property taxes, Price said, while provincial and federal governments need money for more open-ended but necessary social services like health care.

From the federal government's perspective, Price said it's easy enough to increase spending for infrastructure projects or contribute one-time grants for other projects if cities need it.

"When it comes to major capital, we're there for you. If (cities) want to do more, raise property taxes. But no, we're not going to give you an opened-ended tax source," said Price, envisioning the federal government's response. "Once you've got that stream, there will be no end of things you'll spend it on. You'll take on extra responsibilities and undermine the basic fiscal foundation of local municipalities."

Gregor Robertson was among Canada's big city mayors who penned a letter to the feds asking for more funding. JENNIFER GAUTHIER/METRO FILE

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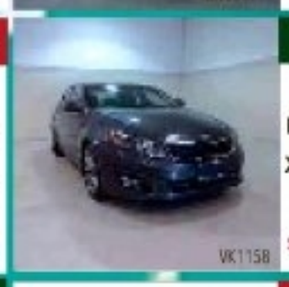

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$172 B/W @ 4.97% OVER 84 MONTHS NOW ONLY $21,888

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Syrian families stuck in limbo

IMMIGRATION

B.C. residents struggle to get relatives out of refugee camps

Wanyee Li
Metro | Vancouver

The Kawergosk refugee camp in northern Iraq last January. ALICE MARTINS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

B.C. residents are celebrating the one-year anniversary of Canada's announcement to welcome thousands of Syrian refugees, but some Metro Vancouver families are stuck in bureaucratic limbo while they try to get relatives out of refugee camps in Iraq.

Alison Dudley and a handful of other Lions Bay residents are sponsoring two Syrian families who are stuck in refugee camps, waiting for Canadian refugee officials to interview them.

She says between herself and other private sponsors, there are about 100 Syrian refugees in northern Iraq who have families waiting for them in Metro Vancouver.

"It felt like a really concrete, positive thing we could do to help," said Dudley, who put in her private sponsorship refugee application for two families with eight children in January.

"Knowing that here are a lot of Syrians in the Metro Vancouver area who are watching the war unfold and worried about their relatives, knowing that we could help one of our neighbours, a local family here, was really appealing."

The children's uncle is a Burnaby resident and has been trying in vain to bring his family to Canada since the Syrian civil war began five years ago. But when the federal government announced it would welcome 25,000 Syrian refugees, he hoped his family would be one of the lucky ones.

"They live in dire circumstances. They are waiting for the application to be processed but it's taking too long. It's a war zone, its winter, and they live in tents," said Adnan, who does not want his last name published.

"Just frustrated. I feel very, very frustrated. It's been taking too long now for them to get here."

> **"Just frustrated. I feel very, very frustrated.**
> Adnan

The delay is a result of the lack of Canadian immigration staff on the ground in Iraq, said Saleem Spindari, manager of refugee settlement support projects at MOSAIC, an organization that helps newcomers integrate into Canadian society.

"Normally there is an interviewer, but the absence of having an immigration officer on the ground in Iraqi Kurdistan complicates things."

The interviewers help refugee applicants complete a medical exam, security clearance, and criminal record check, explained Spindari, who came to Canada as a refugee in the '90s.

Dudley hopes the federal government will move quickly so that Adnan's family can arrive in Canada early.

"We'd love for them to do more given how many local Syrian-Canadians are still waiting to be reunited with their relatives."

CRIME

Girl reunited with stolen teddy bear

A crime spree in Port Coquitlam that saw lockers at a community centre robbed has ended with an area man getting his car back and his daughter reuniting with a red plush teddy bear.

Port Coquitlam RCMP's prolific target team had made a special effort to return the teddy bear after Virgil Roatis informed them of its importance to his daughter.

RCMP were investigating 15 incidents in the Port Coquitlam area where someone was breaking into lockers at the Hyde Park Recreation Centre and stealing fobs, car keys and credit cards.

On Dec. 7, a man was arrested driving a stolen vehicle in Pitt Meadows. A search warrant of a nearby house recovered a 2014 Acura TL and a 2012 Ducati motorcycle, as well as an iPod and iPhone 6. Walter Stanley Bailey, 42, has been charged with theft over $5,000 and possession of stolen property over $5,000.

STUART NEATBY/METRO

IN BRIEF

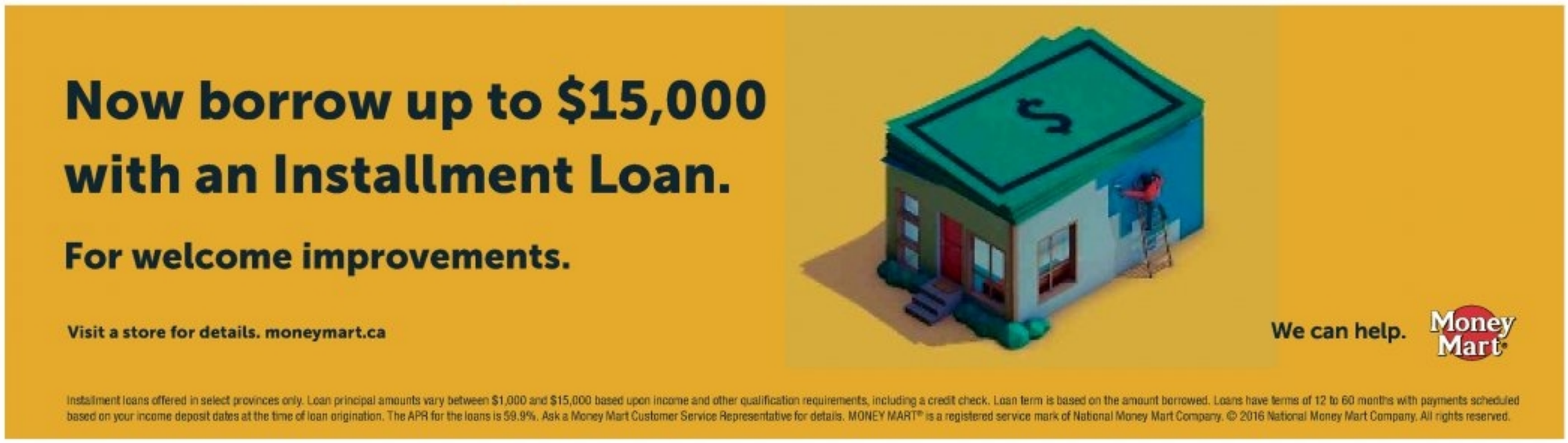
B.C. to review pot report
British Columbia's minister for public safety says the federal task force framework for legalizing marijuana will have many ramifications for the province.

Mike Morris, who is also solicitor general, said the government will take time to thoroughly review the report and its 80 recommendations, with a special focus on public health and safety.

Morris said the top concerns are about keeping cannabis out of the hands of children and teens and curbing drug-impaired driving. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Arrests made in mail thefts
Nanaimo RCMP say an off-duty officer helped nab two prolific mail thieves who were breaking into mail boxes in nearby Lantzville.

Forty-year-old Robert McKay and 39-year-old Michelle McCallum are each charged with four counts of mischief to mail boxes, theft of mail, possession of stolen property and possessing break-in tools.
THE CANADIAN PRESS



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Burnaby loses 478 rental units

DEVELOPMENT

City's housing stock has plunged over seven years

Jen St. Denis
Metro | Vancouver

From his $830-a-month bachelor apartment near Metrotown, Matthew Davies has watched three holes growing in the ground across the street with dread.

Older apartment buildings like his used to stand there, but the tenants were evicted when a developer got the land rezoned to build a much higher condo tower. Davies knows the owner of his building has also applied for a rezoning.

At a time when housing experts and governments are trying to figure out how to grow Canada's declining rental housing stock, a redevelopment frenzy in Burnaby has resulted in a whopping loss of 478 apartments between 2010 and 2016.

That's far above what other Metro Vancouver municipalities have experienced: most have either made modest gains, stayed the same or lost just a few units over the same period, according to Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation's rental market survey.

The municipality with the next highest rate of loss was White Rock, with 25 fewer apartments between 2010 and 2016. Vancouver, which has offered incentives to developers to build market rental, gained 2,227.

"When you compare it to the other municipalities, it is somewhat shocking," said Rick McGowan, the founder of the Metrotown Residents' Association.

"But it's not unexpected when you look at Metrotown, where most of those apartments have been lost. It's been happening since about 2013."

The residential areas around Metrotown, where 30-year old mid-rise apartment buildings are common, has been undergoing rapid redevelopment over the past few years, stemming from a 2010 city council decision to increase density in the area. Developers have rushed to buy the older buildings, which they can then redevelop into high-rise condos. The resulting "demovictions" have sparked protests and a call to halt rezonings and start a review of the city's plan for the area.

McGowan has tracked around 600 apartments that have been lost or threatened.

Lou Pelletier, director of planning and development for the City of Burnaby, dismissed the CMHC data: it doesn't include basement suites or condos that are being rented, so "does not capture the full scope of rental housing development activity in Burnaby, and does not serve to inform readers as to rental housing development occurring in other communities," wrote Pelletier in an email.

Pelletier outlined several upcoming rental buildings approved by council, totalling 1,407 units that will be constructed in the future. The city has approved new permits for 791 secondary suites, and estimates that out of 9,888 condo units built over the past six years, 2,400 will be rented.

"There's really not a lot out there," said Davies of his search for a new rental.

"Some of the new condos are going to be rental properties, but they're all going to be market rental units... the rents are in some cases almost double."

Redevelopment near Metrotown, where low-rise rental apartment buildings are being replaced by condo towers. JEN ST. DENIS/METRO

COMPARISON

Between 2010 and 2016

- Vancouver gained 2,227 rental apartments
- Burnaby lost 478 rental apartments

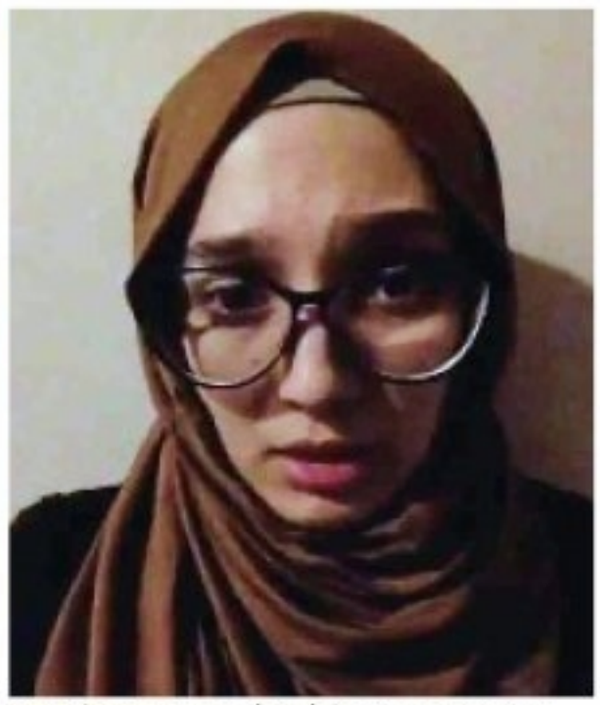
Goodbye from Aleppo

Aleppo's doctors, activists and residents bid emotional goodbyes in online videos and social-media posts. They wanted to have the final say in the merciless civil war.

MONTHER ETAKY: This planet doesn't want people to live as free or to live as humans.

ABDULKAFI ALHAMDO: At least we know that we were a free people...We didn't want anything else but freedom.

BANA ALABED: My name is Bana, I'm 7 years old. I am talking to the world now live from East #Aleppo. This is my last moment to either live or die.



LINA SHAMY: Every bomb is a new massacre. Save Aleppo, save humanity.

First came the distress calls from doctors in underground shelters and morgues. Then residents under relentless bombardment in the few remaining blocks under rebel control in Aleppo began posting emotional goodbyes on social media and in widely circulated messages.

They wanted to have the final say in the merciless civil war.

"There is a problem with this planet," said Monther Etaky, a 28-year-old graphic designer. "This planet doesn't want people to live as free or to live as humans."

The world's view of the Syria conflict has been largely driven by YouTube, Twitter and Facebook — making it one of the world's most documented wars through amateur videos and coverage. This has given the activists a major role in chronicling the war, and in lobbying for the world's response.

Nearly six years into the conflict, they complained the world has been looking the other way.

"Why is this silence? People are being eliminated," tweeted Abdulkafi Alhamdo, an English teacher who has been a vocal critic of President Bashar Assad's government. Then, he wrote: "The last (message). Thanks for Everything. We shared many moments. The last tweets were from an emotional father. Farewell #Aleppo."

A local aid worker who gave only his first name, Omar, sent an emotional recorded message that was widely shared on Whatsapp.

"The government forces are at the end of the street. Forgive us," he said in issuing a tormented apology for failing to protect the rebel enclave, once seen as the jewel of Syria's rebellion.

After four years of holding onto nearly half of what was once Syria's largest city and commercial centre, thousands of residents of rebel-held Aleppo had been cornered in a one-square-mile sliver of land for days as Syrian government troops, backed by Russia, resisted calls for a cease-fire, pushing into the territory as rebel defences crumbled.

Etaky said the fast buckling of rebel defences shocked him at first.

After months of siege imposed since July the rebels had no more power to go on, he said. With their families trapped in the city with them, many fighters left the front lines to tend to their relatives' safety.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A member of the Syrian government forces stands in a severely damaged street in eastern Aleppo Tuesday. AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Rebels to evacuate in surrender deal

Syrian rebels reached a cease-fire deal to evacuate from eastern Aleppo in an effective surrender on Tuesday, as Russia declared all military action had stopped and the Syrian government had assumed control of the former rebel enclave.

The dramatic developments, which appeared to restore the remainder of what was once Syria's largest city to President Bashar Assad's forces after months of heavy fighting and a crippling siege, followed reports of mass killings by government forces closing in on the final few blocks still held by the rebels.

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon told the emergency meeting he had received "credible reports" of civilians killed by bombing and summary executions by pro-government forces.

As word spread of the deal, celebrations broke out in the government-controlled western sector of Aleppo, with convoys of cars driving around honking their cars and waving flags.

The UN human-rights office said it had received reports of pro-government forces killing at least 82 civilians in the rapidly shrinking rebel enclave, including 11 women and 13 children.

A spokesman said the reports described pro-government forces entering homes and killing civilians "on the spot." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Democrats want fair investigation

UNITED STATES

Concerned about probe into tampering in Trump's win

Congressional Democrats prodded Republicans on Tuesday to be aggressive and even-handed as lawmakers prepared to run investigations into U.S. intelligence assertions that Russia intruded into last month's elections to help Donald Trump win the White House.

In a written statement, No. 2 House Democrat Steny Hoyer of Maryland and the top Democrats on six House committees said they wanted a congressional probe of Moscow's interference "that is truly bipartisan, that is comprehensive, that will not be restricted by jurisdictional lines."

The Democrats said the analyses should produce "a complete and full accounting of what happened consistent with safeguarding our national security."

The statement seemed to suggest Democrats are wary that the planned investigations — by intelligence committees headed by GOP chairmen in both chambers — might not be as tough as needed, for fear of offending the Republican president-elect.

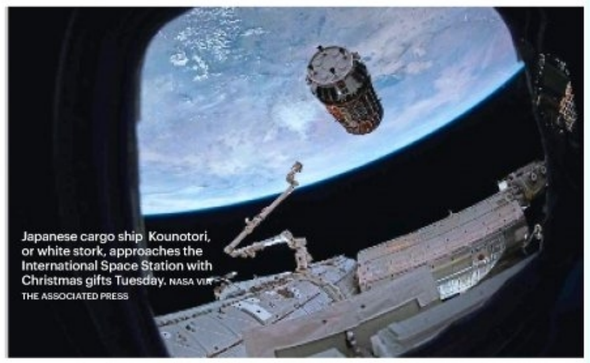
> **Any intervention by Russia is especially problematic.**
> House Speaker Paul Ryan

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., and House Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis., said Monday they backed investigations by each chamber's intelligence committee into the CIA's finding that Russia interfered with the election.

Ryan endorsed an investigation by the House Intelligence Committee into cyberthreats from other countries and extremist groups and condemned "any state-sponsored cyber-attacks on our democratic process."

"Any intervention by Russia is especially problematic because under President (Vladimir) Putin, Russia has been an aggressor that consistently undermines American interests," Ryan said in a written statement.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Japanese cargo ship Kounotori, or white stork, approaches the International Space Station with Christmas gifts Tuesday. NASA VIA THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TECHNOLOGY

Japan outdoes Santa delivering Christmas gifts in space

Christmas gifts arrived at the International Space Station on Tuesday, courtesy of Japan.

A Japanese cargo ship pulled up at the orbiting lab four days after launching. The capsule — called Kounotori, or white stork — contains nearly 5 tons of food, water, batteries and other supplies. NASA said there also are Christmas presents for the two Americans, three Russians and one Frenchman on board.

Commander Shane Kimbrough, an American, and France's Thomas Pesquet used the robot arm to grab the capsule 250 miles above Chile.

> **The vehicle is beautiful, and it performed flawlessly.**
> Cmdr. Shane Kimbrough

Flight controllers in Japan and Houston applauded — and some of the Japanese even bowed. Kimbrough said the crew was "really excited" to accept delivery and radioed thanks to all.

"The vehicle is beautiful, and it performed flawlessly," he said.

Barely two weeks ago, a Russian supply ship was destroyed shortly after liftoff. At the same time, one of NASA's main suppliers, SpaceX, is grounded. So the Japanese delivery is especially welcome.

The astronauts need the six new lithium-ion batteries for next month's spacewalks. They will replace the old nickel-hydrogen batteries that store energy generated by the station's big solar panels.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

18-year-olds could legally buy weed

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THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

People take selfies near Niagara Falls, newly illuminated by LED lights. JULIO CORTEZ/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TECHNOLOGY

Niagara Falls lights up for dark winters

The nightly spectacle of Niagara Falls lit up after dark just got more spectacular.

A $3-million upgrade saw the installation of 1,400 new high-tech lights called luminaires that beam brighter and more vivid rainbows of light from Canada onto the famous waterfalls.

Mixed together, the separate red, green, blue and white LED units can illuminate the waterfalls against the night sky in endless combinations that range from subtle hues to deeply saturated colours.

Perched on the upper level of an 1899 building known as "Illumination Tower," the high-intensity system unveiled Dec. 1 replaced a bank of 21 spotlights, each 30 inches in diameter, that were equipped with coloured gels.

The illumination highlights the sections of Niagara known as American Falls and Canadian Horseshoe Falls.

The first major upgrade in 20 years has more than doubled the previous lighting levels and filled in gaps the old spotlights could not reach. Officials expect it will reduce energy consumption by 60 per cent.

The shorter the days, the longer the night light shows, meaning winter offers prime viewing. Visitors unwilling to brave the frigid air outdoors can watch from the windows of hotels and restaurants on the Canadian shore.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

Feds launch review of assisted dying law

The federal government has initiated the promised review of its restrictive law on medically assisted dying to determine if it should include those suffering strictly from mental illnesses, mature minors and those with competence-eroding conditions. The government said it has engaged the Council of Canadian Academies to conduct reviews on each group and report back by 2018. THE CANADIAN PRESS

No progress on indigenous rights, group says

Canada has made progress improving its human rights record, Amnesty International says, but has "stumbled" or "failed" in a number of areas — including indigenous rights. Alex Neve, the secretary general of Amnesty International Canada, says Trudeau's Liberal government has demonstrated leadership in areas such as transgender rights and fighting the death penalty around the world.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Canadian TV icon Alan Thicke dead

Alan Thicke attends his induction into Canada's Walk of Fame in Toronto in 2013. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

LOS ANGELES

69-year-old suffered heart attack playing hockey with son

Canadian TV personality Alan Thicke, best known for his role on Growing Pains, died Tuesday. He was 69.

Carleen Donovan, a publicist for Thicke's son, singer Robin Thicke, said the actor died from a heart attack on Tuesday in Los Angeles.

Entertainment website TMZ reported that Thicke suffered the heart attack while he was playing hockey with his 19-year-old son Carter.

Thicke was most famous for his role as Jason Seaver, the father from 1980s sitcom Growing Pains, placing him among the most beloved television dads of all time.

He played a psychiatrist raising his children along with his wife, played by Joanna Kerns. Seaver's oldest son, Mike, played by Kirk Cameron, was a constant source of trouble for the family.

His role as Seaver "was typecasting," Thicke joked recently on CBC Radio's q. "I'm perfect in real life, of course."

Although it's been decades since that gig, Thicke had been recently back on the screen as part of the Netflix reboot Fuller House.

Born in Kirkland Lake, Ont., Thicke wore many hats during his career, from hosting talk shows and writing for TV series and specials for comedians such as Richard Pryor and Bill Cosby, to composing the theme songs to Wheel of Fortune, The Facts of Life and Diff'rent Strokes.

Thicke got his start in show biz in 1968 as a writer on CBC's The Tommy Hunter Show. Jack McAndrew, then-head of CBC variety, told Macleans' magazine in 1983 that "for shows with a light and popular touch, he's one of the best in the business."

Even after transplanting to Hollywood, Thicke had a reputation as a Canadian through and through. He even named his son Carter after former Toronto Blue Jays heavy hitter Joe Carter.

Thicke was inducted into Canada's Walk of Fame in 2013.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Celebrities remember

A friend for many years, he wrote & produced so many of my TV specials.
—ANNE MURRAY

He was a good man who gave me some big breaks in my early days.
-HOWIE MANDEL

Saddened over the loss of my friend Alan. Condolences to his family.
—WILLIAM SHATNER

We skated side by side for years. Say hello to Gordie and The Rocket for me.
—DAVE COULIER

I grew up watching him and got to know him through Robin. He was always so kind to me.
—JOHN LEGEND

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Committee backs return of door-to-door mail delivery

CANADA POST

No need to cut number of service days, it recommends

A House of Commons committee is recommending Canada Post come up with a plan to reinstate door-to-door delivery in parts of the country that lost the service in the last year and maintain a freeze on the installation of community mailboxes.

The report from the Liberal-dominated committee released Tuesday also says there is no need to reduce the number of days a week that mail is delivered, suggesting reduced service could accelerate the decline the corporation has seen in the number of letters handled.

The committee says that based on its hearings, Canadians are open to mail being delivered fewer than five days a week, but that "does not fit the business models of either Canada Post or its paying customers."

Instead, the committee recommends increases in postal rates, muses about expanding Canada Post's mandate to provide cellular services or broadband Internet, including email services or "the basis for a Canadian social network," and suggests the corporation partner with e-commerce companies to increase revenues.

830,000

Addresses moved to community mailboxes to date, resulting in an annual saving of $80 million.

The president of the Canadian Union of Postal Workers (CUPW) said thousands of homes would still not have door-to-door delivery because many addresses were moved over to community mailboxes in 2014 and early 2015.

Canada Post began reducing door-to-door delivery last year, arguing that it could save up to $450 million annually by moving five million more addresses to community mailboxes. The committee said Canada Post provided "weak" financial information to support the estimate.

Canada Post said it will study the recommendations in the report as it looks for major changes to keep itself viable.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

A House of Commons committee is recommending Canada Post freeze installation of community mailboxes. THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

CANADA-EU

Trudeau, Merkel affirm support for trade deal

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and German Chancellor Angela Merkel, talked trade in a telephone call, affirmed their support for the Canada-EU free trade deal, which both sides hope to finalize next year. The House of Commons is expected to give second reading approval to the bill. THE CANADIAN PRESS

market minute

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WHOLESALE

Costco returning to its roots with launch of a new format store

Costco is launching a new store format in Canada in 2017 that hearkens back to its roots supplying small businesses.

The first Costco Wholesale Business Centre is scheduled to open in the Toronto area in March, according to two senior company executives. "Sometimes we call it internally the Costco retro — we're going back to our base, back to our roots," said Marc-André Bally, vice-president business centre for Costco Wholesale Canada.

While the new format is aimed at small-to-medium business owners, including restaurateurs, lawyers, doctors and gym-owners, all card-carrying Costco members can shop the store, at no additional cost.

At 127,000 square feet, the business centre will be somewhat smaller than the 94 Costcos already operating across Canada. But because there will be no ancillary services — no optician, no bakery, no meat-cutting services — the number of palettes on the floor from which products are sold will be about the same as in a typical Costco, said Andrée Brien, senior vice-president and senior general merchandise manager for Costco Wholesale Canada.

The new Costco format could be competition for Staples, which caters to small businesses and consumers, according to Maureen Atkinson at J.C. Williams Group.

Business shoppers aren't always happy shopping in locations where consumers also shop, said Atkinson, referring to research her firm has conducted in the DIY marketplace.

Among the things customers won't find for sale in the Costco Business Centre: diamonds, tires, apparel. Still, at least 80 per cent of products will be unique to the new format, said Bally.

The hours will be geared to a business clientele — from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday to Friday to allow them to shop before opening their own businesses for the day.

Saturday hours will be 7 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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metro VIEWS
Your essential daily news
Wednesday, December 14, 2016

JESSICA ALLEN ON A CELLULOID OBAMA

As the real Barack prepares to hand the keys over to the man who led the birthers, the last eight years seem really nice, in retrospect.

This year has seen no shortage of biopics. Films like Lion, Loving, and Denial, have introduced some of us to heroes whose names and stories we didn't know. Others have tackled the more familiar lives of those who go by a singular moniker — think Miles, Nina, Jackie, Sully, and Snowden.

And then there's Barry, who now goes by Barack. POTUS is the subject of not one but two films released this year, both of which take place before he was POTUS, and one of which, Barry, will be released on Netflix on December 16. Set in 1981, when Obama transfers to Columbia as a junior majoring in political science and English, the film delighted me, along with an audience of 1,200, when it premiered in September during TIFF.

In our house, biopics are a hot topic. Simon refuses to watch them, but I love them. The irony is that we probably love and hate them for the same reasons; the depiction of a life, be it a single defining moment or a broad sweeping cradle-to-grave affair requires reducing, like a good spaghetti sauce. But Simon has little faith in the genre, so I wasn't surprised that he's expressed no interest in watching Barry.

"What about Primary Colors?" I asked, citing a movie I know he loves.

"That was different," he said. "It was a roman à clef."

I couldn't quite see how that mattered. Would the film's attempt to show the sordid, warts-and-all machinations of the political process be fatally undermined if John Travolta's character was called Bill?

The thing is, Barry is a nice movie. And as the real Obama prepares to hand the keys to the kingdom over to the man who led the public crusade for the release of his birth certificate, the last eight years are starting to seem really nice, too.

Biopics are often as much about the past as they are about the present and even the future.

Devon Terrell as Barack Obama in a scene from Barry. LINDA KALLERUS/NETFLIX/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Under his watch, same-sex couples gained the right to marry, the unemployment rate fell, as did the number of uninsured adults, and Osama Bin Laden was killed, journalist Stephen Marche noted almost a year ago in the Los Angeles Times. But not everything has come up roses: "Under an African American president, we've grown used to the fact that white police officers kill unarmed black civilians," he wrote. "Under a liberal president, the rich have gotten richer and the middle class has stagnated."

Yet "even as the world is beginning to tote up his legacies for the great pissing contest of op-ed history," Marche wrote a few weeks ago, in a piece called "The Obama Years" for the Los Angeles Review of Books, "I doubt anyone will be able to capture his saturation of our imagination."

He may be right. But Barry manages to capture something beautiful: meditative moments are weaved throughout the narrative that illuminate the life of a man trying to figure out who he is, where he comes from, and where he is going. Even scenes that foreshadow greatness aren't ham-fisted: when Obama meets the parents of a white woman he's dating, he slowly ascends stairs whose walls are lined with gilded-frame oil paintings of past presidents. When he picks up books from a street vendor, one is Ralph Ellison's Invisible Man, which he still cites as a favourite. Another is by W.E.B. Du Bois, the first African American to get a doctorate from Harvard, where Obama went to law school after his time at Columbia.

After the credits rolled and the filmmakers and cast walked on stage, the audience waited for Devon Terrell, the actor who had taken on the enormous task of portraying the president of the United States for his first feature film, to speak. And as he told us how he wanted to avoid caricature (he did), how he learned to write and play basketball left-handed, how he had an emotional connection to Obama because change the name and it could've been about him, we rustled in our seats with surprise upon hearing his voice. "I'm Australian by the way," he said.

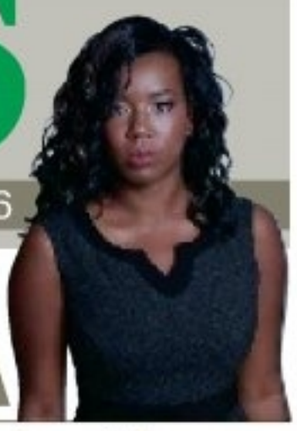
"We really wanted to make sure that you could relate to Barry," director Vikram Gandhi said, "that you can glean something about race in America, and that even if you forgot who he would become, you'd still believe he would become someone significant."

But it was sometimes difficult to lose sight that Barry would become Barack, especially during a love scene that left a row of women directly behind me whooping and hollering, "Michelle isn't gonna like that," one of them said, assuming for a moment that she'll see it.

And maybe the Obamas will "Netflix and chill." Biopics are often as much about the past as they are about the present and even the future, even though the foreshadowing is not always intentional. When Barry's filmmakers, for example, conceived of the project and saw it through, they must've felt celebratory. Even back in September there were was a sense of elation in the audience. But now, the moment portrayed, and the last eight years, feel less like a celebration. They feel like an elegy.

Jessica Allen is the digital correspondent on CTV's The Social.

VICKY MOCHAMA



The term 'woke' is hereby put on ice until further notice

Dearly beloved, we are gathered here today to say goodbye to "woke."

I'm not putting woke away out of meanness; I just want to save it from the same fate as "shade." A phrase from drag culture's rich lexicon, the mainstreaming of "shade" enriched the cultural landscape. At first. "Shade" now has a thriving career in being misapplied by news outlets desperate for millennial clicks. (The misuse of shade is being expertly adjudicated with tireless, if vexed, commitment by Jezebel's Kara Brown.)

Woke must be buried to save us from ourselves. We clearly don't know what words mean anymore.

Woke had a good run. Erykah Badu sang it in her 2008 song "Master Teacher," which birthed the current popular meaning of the word.

Woke had a quiet adolescence in being used mainly by Badu fans and tired people. But always, for Black people, wokeness meant staying alert to the injustices levelled at our bodies and communities, and continuing to resist the systems that perpetrated those injustices. After the 2012 murder of Trayvon Martin and the exoneration of his murderer, Black people on Twitter reminded each other to #staywoke.

Recently, former Fox News screaming chalkboard Glenn Beck has been described as woke. Writing for the New York Times he said, black lives matter, possibly, especially for the couple of black people he has personally met. (I'm paraphrasing but only to save you the time.)

This belief in the partial humanity of black people, added to a New Yorker interview in which he admitted to being influenced by Barack Obama, made some people believe that Beck was woke now. He is not.

Beck's media platform, The Blaze, continues to peddle the same shrill toxicity that his Fox News show once amplified. Tomi Lahren, a sort of Ann Coulter but blonder and less overtly racist, hosts a show for The Blaze. If Glenn Beck is woke, his work manages not to be.

Wokeness isn't be a badge to be shined; for black people, it's a mode of survival. And for white populations, it must be matched with a desire and actions to protect the most vulnerable and marginalized.

As the horrors of the Trump presidency are unveiled, people — by this, I largely mean white people — will awaken to the fact that Muslims and Mexicans are, indeed, human beings. They must not be allowed to claim wokeness. Rather than let it be diluted by mainstream (read: white) culture in the manner of a Disney movie, we must put woke into the vault.

Words lose their impact when they cease to mean anything. In the way that "alt-right" obscures hate, "woke" gives many people more credit than they've earned.

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metro LIFE

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Wednesday, December 14, 2016

Wonder Woman has been fired from her honorary ambassador job at the U.N. following protests about her suitability as a role model.

5 WINES FOR WHATEVER TYPE OF BOSS YOU HAVE

Face it. You can't buy your boss a piece of clothing (too personal), or cologne (too allusive) or a book on how to be a better boss or human being (as tempting as that may be). But you can never go wrong with a bottle of wine. So to help you wrap up your gift game, we've paired five bottles to five breeds of bosses. See if you can find yours on the list. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

1 Young and restless boss

2015 Big Bill Ridiculously Big Cabernet Sauvignon, Western Cape, South Africa (LCBO 457119, $12.95, in stores only)

If your boss is under 35 and recently discovered the glories of fermented grape juice, thrill him or her with this red — it's a bit of a big deal. Not only does it sport a funky name and cool label, it tastes amazing, with loads of ripe, opulent fruit layered with notes of bonfire, cigar, baking spices and chocolate-covered burnt almond. And the wine is a tribute to a real-life hero, making it a great boss gift. This bottle was made to honour William "Big Bill" Millar, the boxing champ, war hero, rugby captain and first GM of this wine's winery, KWV. A solid gift idea for the millennial boss. **Score: 89+**

2 Praise-happy boss

Santa Margherita Brut Valdobbiadene Prosecco Superiore, Veneto, Italy (Vintages Essential 687582, $18.95 reg., $16.95 till Dec. 30)

You know the boss whose eagerness to praise knows no bounds? The one who lives for small successes, publicly applauding everything from big business wins to the most inane ideas. Resist the urge to give him or her a box of shiny stars and instead give something to toast the next achievement. So give a bottle or two of this delicious, dry, pear-and-seaspray-scented Prosecco and be done with it. **Score: 94**

3 The Devil Wears Prada boss

NV Paul Dangin & Fils Brut Cuvee Carte Blanche Champagne, France (Vintages 450460, $51.95, in stores only)

To impress this bejewelled boss, you need something so profoundly stylish that only those in the know would see it for the gem it is. The find? This beautiful Blanc de Blancs Champagne, which Maxim's of Paris has been serving for years (with Maxim's labelling of course). Pierced by a delicate string of tiny, persistent bubbles and brimming with aromas and flavour of the best-ever apple crumble edged with salted nuts, this wine is drop-dead gorgeous. Paul Dangin & Fils also supplies Champagne to the British royal household by appointment from Her Majesty the Queen.
Score: 94

4 Creative genius boss

2013 Big Smooth Old Vine Zinfandel, California (Vintages 470179, $24.95, in stores only)

If you work for a creative genius, odds are they didn't move up the ranks by MBA skills alone. So give a bottle that's both smart and scrumptious — such as The Big Smooth, which just hit shelves. The leg-lamp label symbolizes the holidays because it's a prop from A Christmas Story; the plum velvet label mirrors the wine's flavour and texture; and the wine's instant appeal, complexity and polished purity of fruit says you know your stuff. Best part? None of this will be lost on the recipient.
Score: 91

5 Button down boss

2010 Montecillo Rioja Reserva, Rioja, Spain (LCBO 621003, $18.15)

If your boss is the buttoned-down type, s/he no doubt has a built-in, knee-jerk, deeply-ingrained appreciation of the classics. And this traditional Rioja Reserva, with six years of age on it, is sure to please and offers exceptional value for money. It's sleek glossy texture slides across the palate then broadens and deepens almost instantly to reveal rich but bone dry flavours of black cherry and black raspberry edged with vanilla bean, milk chocolate, coffee bean, toasty oak and toffee. A lovely chalky-texture on the finish holds the flavour intact for ages. You'll want to buy one for yourself, too. **Score: 92**

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Holiday entertaining 911

You did everything right. You kept your guest list tight because you knew a dinner party with more than six people was too much. Then, the calls started. A friend's got a new boyfriend he is dying to introduce you to. Your sister's best friend is in town. And so on. Now your intimate dinner is a group of twelve. Do you panic and cancel the whole thing? Nah, you've got this. Or rather, we've got this. A smart menu and a few iron-clad rules and you'll be the host with the most. **CERI MARSH AND LAURA KEOGH**

ISTOCK IMAGE, FOOD PHOTOGRAPHY BY MAYA VISNYEI

A secret weapon to leave them thinking you cooked all day

Roast Pork Tenderloin with Apples and Sweet Potato

Pork loin cooks quickly and takes on flavours beautifully. As your first guests arrive, pop it in the oven and by the time you're done with hors d'ouevres, it will be ready.

Ingredients:
- 1.25 – 1.5 kg pork loin
- 3 Tbsp Dijon mustard
- 3 Tbsp maple syrup
- 2 tsp thyme, finely chopped
- 2 Tbsp apple cider vinegar
- 1 large firm-fleshed apple, peeled, cored and chopped into 1/2 inch wedges
- 1 smallish sweet potato, chopped into 1/2 inch discs
- 1 onion, peeled and sliced into 1/4 inch rounds
- salt and pepper

Directions:

1. Preheat the oven to 425 degrees. In a small bowl, mix together 1 Tbsp dijon, 1 Tbsp maple syrup, 1 Tbsp vinegar. Assemble your fruit and veggies in two rows in a roasting dish. Brush the marinade over everything. Pop them in a hot oven for about 25 minutes.

2. In that same little bowl you're going to mix up 2 Tbsp of Dijon, 2 Tbsp syrup, 1 Tbsp vinegar and the thyme. Season your pork loin with a grind of salt and pepper, then brush this marinade all over it. Take the roasting pan out of the oven and place your loin in between the two rows of fruit and veg. You might have to nudge them apart a bit but it's fine if they overlap. Put it all back in the oven for 20 to 25 minutes. You want the internal temperature of pork to be between 140 and 145 degrees.

3. Take everything out and cover with foil and let the meat rest for about 10 minutes. Slice your meat and serve a couple of slices and a scoop of fruit and vegetables on each plate.

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Great bites from the cheat sheet to the baking sheet to the platter

Crispy Brussels Sprouts and Sweet Potato Tarts

All the elements of these little bites can be prepared in advance, warmed and then assembled giving your guests the perfect holiday bite.

Ingredients:
- 1 refrigerated pie crust
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 sweet potato, cut into 1/2 inch cubes
- 2 tablespoons of butter salt
- 2 cup Brussels sprouts, quartered
- 2 tablespoons pomegranate seeds
- 1 teaspoon fresh rosemary

Directions:

1. Line a rimmed baking sheet with parchment paper. Place pie crust on floured work surface. Using a 1 1/2 inch cookie cutter, cut out 24 rounds; transfer to prepared sheet, spacing 1/2 inch apart. Place in freezer until dough is firm.

2. Preheat the oven to 400. Toss sweet potato with 1 tablespoon of olive oil and sprinkle with salt. Roast in the oven until fork tender, about 20 minutes. Mash potatoes and then mix in butter. Do ahead and store in an airtight container in the refrigerator.

3. Toss Brussels sprouts with remaining tablespoon of oil and salt. Roast in the oven at 425 until browned and tender, about 25 minutes. Do ahead and store in an airtight container in the refrigerator.

4. When you're ready to assemble, preheat oven to 400. Bake crusts until light golden. Transfer to platter.

5. Re-warm sweet potato on the stove top. Crisp sprouts in the oven. Once your vegetables are warm begin assembling by adding a teaspoon of potato to each tart. Top with sprouts and a few pomegranate seeds. Sprinkle the tarts on the platter with rosemary.

To meet grape expectations get groundwork in the night before

Grape and Parmesan Flatbread Pizza

This sweet and salty bite tastes great warm or at room temperature. Either way, you can prepare your flatbread the night before and have it ready to roll.

Ingredients:
- 2 tbsps olive oil
- 10 to 12 seedless grapes, sliced lengthwise
- 1 cup Parmesan or Fontina cheese, grated
- 2 handfuls of arugula

Directions:

1. Preheat your oven to 450 degrees. Place your flatbread on a baking sheet. Brush the flat bread with olive oil. Sprinkle the cheese evenly over the flatbread. Top that with a scattering of grapes.

2. Bake for about 5 to 10 minutes until cheese melts and grapes begin to blister.

3. Remove from the oven and top with arugula and sea salt and pepper. Slice into thin pieces.

Rope in the early arrival for a zesty palate-setter

Pears with Goat Cheese and Cranberries

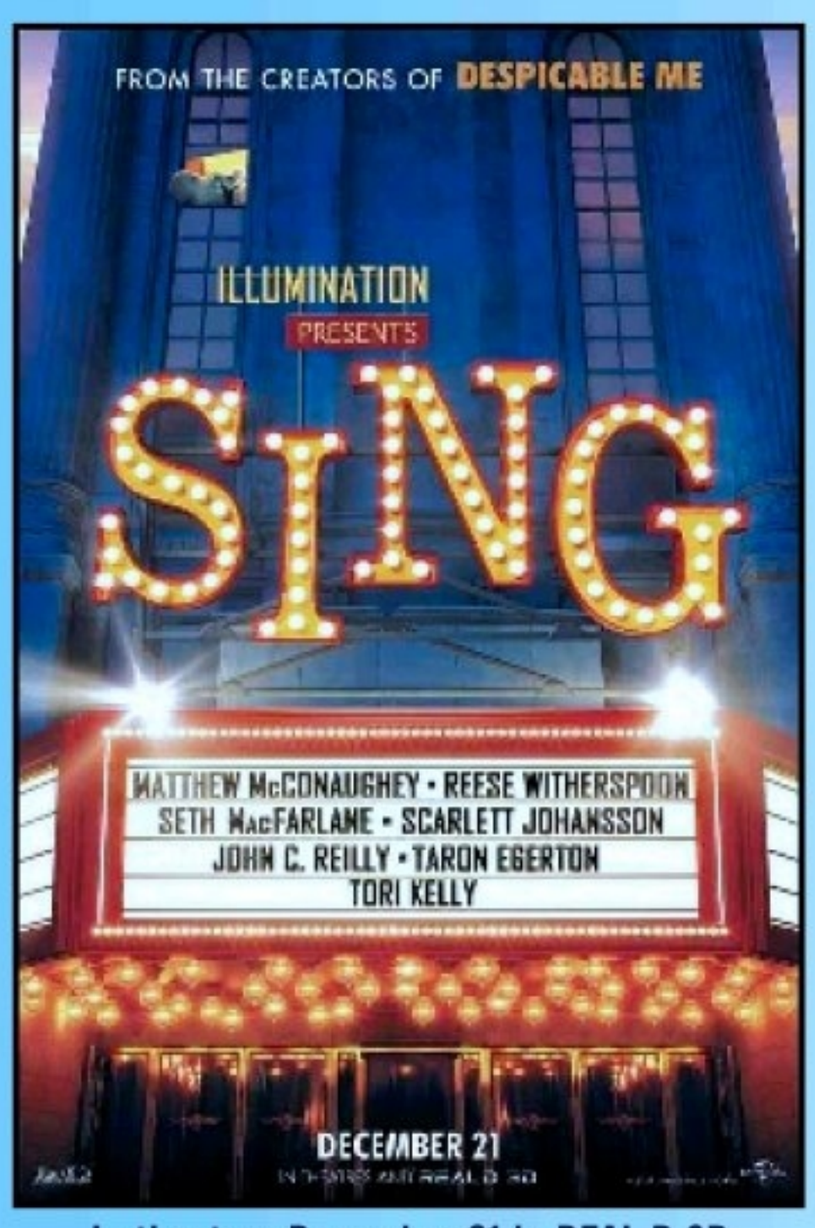
You know how there is always one person that come too early to the party. Well, this is the easy little assembly job you have them do while you finish getting ready.
Of course, you'll pour them a drink first.

Ingredients:
- 2 pears, cored and cut into two dozen slices
- 1 tablespoon orange or lemon juice
- 1/2 cup goat cheese
- 1 teaspoon honey
- 2 tablespoons pistachio pieces
- 2 tablespoons cranberries

Directions:

1. Core pears and cut into slices. Toss in orange or lemon juice to keep from browning.

2. Mix cheese with honey then spread cheese on widest part of pear slice. Shower cheese with cranberries and some pistachio pieces. Arrange on platter and serve.



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JOHANNA SCHNELLER
WHAT I'M WATCHING

The word police play it forward

THE SHOW: Brooklyn Nine-Nine, Season 4, Episode 9 (Fox/City)
THE MOMENT: The reporters' names

Hyperactive cop Jake Peralta (Andy Samberg) and his deadpan captain Ray Holt (Andre Braugher) are watching an unqualified colleague get a commendation because, Peralta says, they "overmined" him — gave him credit he didn't deserve. Holt winces at "overmined."

"You know I hate when you make up words," he says.

"Are you still mad at me for saying 'snaccident'?" Peralta asks.

"Yes. Very," Holt replies.

Peralta looks around at the crowd of reporters. "Even The Times is here," he says.

"Really? Who'd they send?" Holt asks, then fires off, "Wilson? Palmer? Schneider? Levine? Rogers? Tyler? Baker? Schmidt?"

"Stop saying reporters' names," Peralta says. "How do you know so many names?"

"They're the only real rock stars we have left," Holt says.

You know you're invested in a TV show when you feel like they're writing jokes just for you. This particular exchange was like an early Christmas present with my name on it.

Not only are Peralta and Holt a 21st-century Laurel and Hardy, with a delivery that's like a well-oiled lock and key. Not only did I laugh a long time at "snaccident." But then Holt — still perfectly within the established parameters of his character, mind you — tossed that lovely bone to us hangdog newspaperfolk, who are reluctantly watching our lights go out all over North America. This show is allegedly about cops, but really it's about wordplay. The writers (and their hyper-articulate characters) are drunk on it. And this highly specific shout-out is their toast to reporters, their comrades in type.

Johanna Schneller is a media connoisseur who zeroes in on pop-culture moments. She appears Monday through Thursday.

CELEBRITY BRIEFS

West talks 'life' with Trump during surprise NYC visit

A newly blond Kanye West visited Donald Trump on Tuesday, and the two men posed for photos but didn't say much about their talks.

Trump said the two were "just friends" and called the musician a "good man." The president-elect said they discussed "life." The two did not answer questions about whether West would perform at the Inauguration.

West stood silently next to Trump for photos in the lobby of Trump Tower. Asked why he wasn't speaking, West said, "I just want to take a picture right now."

West was not accompanied by wife Kim Kardashian West. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Donald Trump and Kanye West. AP PHOTO/SETH WENIG

Gaga salutes Madonna

Madonna's speech in support of feminism at Billboard's Women in Music awards has earned kudos from Lady Gaga. Madonna thanked the audience for acknowledging her career in the face of "blatant sexism and misogyny." Lady Gaga said the speech was "inspiring". THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Jyn's the perfect tonic

INTERVIEW

Felicity Jones latest to prove that Star Wars is no boys club

Star Wars gets a bad rap for being a boys club, and sometimes rightfully so, but the truth of the matter is that women have always been an integral part of George Lucas's world and the franchise's fan base. On screen, the names Leia, Amidala and Rey are as instantly recognizable and known as any others — and none were ever just playing "the girl."

With this now 39-year-old tradition in mind, Rogue One: A Star Wars Story introduces a new heroine to the ranks — Jyn Erso, an abandoned child of war who must decide what she believes in as the world devolves into chaos. Director Gareth Edwards talked about developing the character and settling on the idea that "Jyn isn't just a woman — she's a person."

"I wanted to make a character that I would want to be. Not to fancy her or want to marry her, but want to be her. It was just a cool person," Edwards continued.

He and the team at Lucasfilm settled on English actress Felicity Jones, 33, to play the part. Already an Oscar nominee for her portrayal of Jane Hawking in The Theory of Everything, Jones had been making a name for herself in smaller projects, like the indie romance Like Crazy.

"For years I've been constantly looking for these kinds of parts and these kinds of films and the opportunity to make it on such a large scale was pretty hard to turn down," said Jones, who also appears in the upcoming fantasy tale A Monster Calls and opposite Tom Hanks in Inferno.

Jyn gets the full weight of an origin story in Rogue One, out Friday. Her father, Galen Erso (Mads Mikkelsen), is a scientist who once worked for the Empire, left that life behind and, at the beginning of the film, gets drawn back in to help finish the Death Star — leaving his young daughter behind to fend for herself.

As an adult, she's forced to confront her past in various ways.

"I like her determination," Jones said. "She doesn't let go of something until she succeeds. She is very, very focused and tenacious in the face of when she's set a task."

And while Jyn is not a princess or a queen or, well, whatever Rey turns out to be, Jones does think she shares similarities with those who came before her.

"They are quite forthright but they are instinctive and they kind of — they don't mess around," Jones said. "She's very true to the other 'Star Wars' heroines in that way." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rogue One: A Star Wars Story was the kind of large-scale role Felicity Jones couldn't turn down. CONTRIBUTED

Be patient in today's work climate

ADVICE

Being self-employed takes a lot of planning

Will McGuirk

To those seeking advice on today's work environment, Davis Arias, a self-employed graphic designer and graduate of Kwantlen University, says be honest, commit and plan.

Arias has worked with clients as far afield as Japan, Slovenia and Turkey. His work has been featured in Wallpaper and Monocle and he has been a judge of the CSS Awards.

"Just be honest with yourself, and commit to it. Have a plan," he says, "Things won't happen overnight. They take time. Do what you do best, always putting your best foot forward and things will work themselves out."

Things don't happen overnight. One of the keys is commitment. ISTOCK

Arias says his first year working for himself wasn't great financially but over time it got better.

"By the third year, I finally started to think that this could work for me as an independent. I have now been doing this for eight years, and I would make the same decision again if I had to. I love what I do and I feel very fortunate to be able to make a living out it," he says.

The decision to start-up his own was influenced by the state of the industry after he graduated. At university he had built a list of studios to apply to. The studios he chose allowed greater creative freedom and access to some of the best people in the business but the completion of his studies coincided with a slump in the industry. Even the best studios were laying off people; getting hired wasn't an option.

"Since I wasn't able to do that, due to an economic downfall in the industry, I began to put together a portfolio book I self-published using an online service. I also decided to create an online presence," he says.

A blog he started about designers took off. Many of the designers he was showcasing became online colleagues. They shared his work in return on their own and on design community blogs worldwide. With increased exposure came the opportunities for others to stumble upon his work, and soon clients began calling. Arias says building relationships with those in the business, and those running their own business, was the best thing he did.

The business of how your food gets to you

Many people associate words like "agriculture" and "agri-food" with farming. The reality is that the agri-food system is made up of a whole collection of industries — essentially any activity that ensures the food will get from the field to your plate.

Farmers are certainly an important part of the agriculture sector, but career opportunities do extend further afield. For example, a large farm operation may require farm managers and workers, animal nutritionists, custom equipment operators and accountants to run smoothly.

Agriculture also depends heavily on innovative new research and the development of things like crop protection products and new seed varieties. As a result, there are countless career opportunities available in laboratory research, field trial monitoring and policy development.

After production, crops must somehow get from farmers' fields to consumers. This means there are jobs in marketing, business development, production, machinery operation, packaging and sales, just to name a few.

With the wide variety of careers available, agriculture accounts for one in eight jobs in Canada. ISTOCK

With the wide variety of careers available, it's not surprising that agriculture accounts for one in eight jobs in Canada, according to Human Resources and Skills Development Canada. Better yet, the need for workers in the agri-food sector is only going to increase in the future. For example, the demand for contractors, operators, and supervisors in agriculture, horticulture, and aquaculture is expected to exceed the number of available workers over the next decade. It's also projected that there will be a similar shortage of farmer supervisors and livestock workers — predictions that open up many opportunities for both new graduates and experienced professionals.

Find more information at helpingcanadagrow.ca.

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Today's job search about adaptability

YOU'RE HIRED!

The current climate is all about change

Will McGuirk

Social media and online networking is only one path. The key is to use all the tools you have at your disposal. ISTOCK

Social media is one path to begin your job search but it is not all you need, says Michelle Murphy, Alumni Career Educator at the University of British Columbia. Online networks are just another tool in your network arsenal.

"We need to use all the tools at our disposal. The rise in online networking opportunities sometimes gives the false impression that resumes, cover letters and business cards don't matter but for many industries they absolutely do," she says. "These are all avenues to communicate to potential employers all that you have to offer. Make sure anything you put out there is polished, succinct and of the highest quality."

Making sure you remain adaptable is also vital to successful employment says Murphy. Whether continuing in a present position or seeking opportunities elsewhere be flexible and open.

"No matter how great your job is, always stay curious about what else is out there, what the possibilities are, what new roles and marketplace needs are emerging. Be open to possibilities. Today's career climate is all about change, so be adaptable. Know your strengths and make sure you know how to articulate all the different ways your skills bring value to the workplace. Don't be rigid. Hold onto your vision but be flexible about how you get there. There are lots of paths to getting where you want to go," she says.

There are many roads to take and many tools to use. However it's important to invest time in learning the tools to ensure you maximize those roads as they appear. LinkedIn is certainly one of those paths but there are best practises to be aware off.

"Although most people have a LinkedIn profile, many don't make the best use of it. Spend some time on your profile. It is more than just an online resume. It's an opportunity to tell your career story, to craft it in a way that will propel you to the career you want to have. It's a living document so keep updating it and tweaking it.

Career development can be treated as a living document too. Landing a job can just be the beginning. The search doesn't end there, not anymore. Things are changing too fast.

"Treat career development as an ongoing process throughout your work life. Keep growing and improving, keep networking. Then you are always going to be first in line to most cutting edge opportunities," she says

"As one of my mentors once told me: 'your dream job might not even exist yet.'"

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The Employment Program of British Columbia is funded by the Government of Canada and the Province of British Columbia.

metro WHEELS
Your essential daily news
Ford Performance introduces race-ready Mustang for track only

It'll make you feel like a teen again

REVIEW

WRX STI has high level of driving engagement

Jodi Lai
AutoGuide.com

Subaru people are among the most vocal in the world of automotive fandoms about how much they love their cars.

I've driven practically the whole lineup of Subaru cars, and while they are very decent vehicles, I was never overwhelmingly impressed by them. They were good, but not the best. The Subaru fandom always left me a bit confused, and I assumed they adhered to some sort of cult mentality with their blind faith in a quirky brand.

That's until I finally got to drive the 2017 Subaru WRX STI, which may have made me into a convert.

After spending some quality time with the sedan, I am now able to fully understand the draw of the STI. The beautiful thing about it — and let's not kid ourselves, it's not how it looks — is how it makes you drive like a teenager who has nothing to lose. There's a level of driving engagement that is pretty much unmatched by anything else in its price range. It's impossible not to have fun when driving it, even when you're going slow. Cars like this are really rare, and I was actually really surprised by how giddy I felt driving it.

The one thing that people might not like about this car is that drama. Nobody is going to see this car and assume a responsible adult is driving it. Passersby and law enforcement will notice the huge hood scoop and comically large wing sitting on the trunk, hear the exhaust's aggressive cracks and burbles, and see someone who's looking for trouble. I think that's all part of the fun. Sleepers have their place in the world, but I'm just so entertained by the constant drama surrounding this car.

The fun starts with the powertrain, a turbocharged 2.5-litre boxer four-cylinder and permanent full-time all-wheel drive. The engine puts out 305 hp and 290 pound-feet of torque, and the STI is one of the only cars that is still exclusively available with a manual transmission. This six-speed manual is great to use, with short and precise throws (it's much better than the one in the WRX). The gearing for first and second are a bit short and you'll hit redline in no time, so I wish those gears were a little bit taller, but it's not a deal-breaker.

The brakes are sharp, the clutch is the right weight and feels intuitive to use and the steering is also fantastic, heavy, dialed-in and responsive, and quicker than WRX. Off-the-line acceleration is freaky fast, though not drag strip fast, and max torque is available as early as 2,000 rpm. There is a wee bit of turbo lag, but the car feels light, and like it's always ready to throat-punch you, but is also entirely manageable at the same time.

I finally understand what Subaru fanboys are always going on about.

THE CHECKLIST | 2017 SUBARU WRX STI REVIEW

THE BASICS

Engine: 2.5L turbo four-cylinder
Power: 305 hp, 290 lb-ft
Transmission: Six-speed manual
Fuel Economy (L/100 km): 13.8 city, 10.2 hwy
Price: Starts at $40,795 (for Sport model)

LOVE IT
- Engaging drive
- Daily usability
- Fandom

LEAVE IT
- Cop magnet
- Inferior infotainment

TIPS

Steps to storing your car for the long winter season

Dan Ilika
AutoGuide.com

It's December, a dreaded time of year for classic and sports car owners living where the mercury drops and the white stuff falls.

Attachment issues aside, there's no better way to protect your ride from the elements than keeping it out of them altogether. \With that in mind, here are eight helpful tips to get your car ready for its winter hibernation.

Store it somewhere dry

While leaving your car outside is certainly an inexpensive storage option, it defeats the purpose of taking your ride off the road for the winter months. That's where a garage comes in handy — and preferably a climate-controlled one with a concrete floor.

If it's just not realistic to boot your daily driver out of the garage for the next four months, paying for indoor storage is a worthwhile endeavor.

Change the fluids

Before you put it away, it's important to change your vehicle's fluids. Everything from the engine oil and filter to the coolant — and even the gas — should be replaced with clean stuff to reduce the potential for harmful contaminants floating around vital components.

Put it away clean

So you've driven your beloved ride one last time. The next step is to get it ready for storage with a thorough cleaning. Handwashing and waxing isn't just therapeutic; it also provides an extra layer of protection against corrosion and damage to the paint and exposed components. A thorough detail job inside and out won't hurt either, and will leave your ride road-ready come spring. Once it's all spick and span, close the windows and put some boxes of baking soda in the cabin and cargo area to absorb moisture.

Keep the critters at bay

Insects and small animals like mice love to find cosy places to settle down for the winter, so don't let it be your classic or sports car's cabin or engine bay. Make sure all the doors and windows are sealed tightly, and wrap up the exhaust and air intake to keep pests from crawling inside.

Steel wool can also be stuffed inside the exhaust and intake if you so choose, but don't push it in too far or you'll be fighting to get it out in the spring. Once that's done, put a quality car cover on it.

Prop it up on jack stands

This step may seem a little on the extreme side, but it's an important one — especially if the vehicle is going to sit stationary for weeks on end. Leaving the car on its tires for a prolonged period can lead to flat spots, particularly if it's fitted with retro bias ply tires or softer radials.

DON'T START

Use whatever willpower you have to avoid hopping in and starting the engine — unless, of course, you plan on driving it. Idling the engine will do more harm than good.

metro SPORTS

"Poopfest. It's terrible": Seattle Seahawks cornerback Richard Sherman is tired of Thursday night games

Canucks succumb to 3rd-period storm

NHL

Hurricanes score 6 times in final frame for 7th straight win

Trailing by three goals after two periods, the Carolina Hurricanes simply needed a spark.

Then one third-period goal turned into another — and yet another — and suddenly, their huge hole turned into a lead.

"We weren't out of it by any means," centre Jordan Staal said. "We did feel like, if we got one, who knows what could happen?"

The Hurricanes scored six goals in the final period to rally past the Vancouver Canucks 8-6 on Tuesday night.

Justin Faulk scored the go-ahead goal 5:56 into the third, and Jeff Skinner finished with two goals. His second one came on a power play to start Carolina's wild comeback.

The Hurricanes scored four times in a 4:40 span to erase a 5-2 deficit.

"It's fun to get on a little bit of a roll like that," Skinner said, "but you don't want to see it too often."

Ron Hainsey and Victor Rask scored 24 seconds apart before Faulk put Carolina back up with a wrist shot that clicked off Nikita Tryamkin on its way past Ryan Miller.

Canucks goalie Ryan Miller looks on at Hurricanes players celebrate Justin Faulk's third-period goal in Raleigh, N.C., on Tuesday night. GERRY BROOME/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TUESDAY **In Raleigh, N.C.**

8	6
CANES	CANUCKS

"We knew going into the third period we had to turn things around, and it started with that first power play," backup goalie Michael Leighton said. "We came out flying and got a few chances — and boom. And obviously, the rest is history."

Staal added an insurance goal with 7:22 left, and Brandon Sutter made it 7-6 with 5:50 to play before Lee Stempniak scored an empty-netter with 57.6 seconds remaining.

Sven Baertschi had two goals and an assist for the Canucks. Baertschi, Alexandre Burrows, Markus Granlund and Ben Hutton all scored during Vancouver's four-goal second period.

"The focus is on us giving up some goals when we had a chance to close out a game," Canucks coach Willie Desjardins said.

Sebastian Aho scored an early goal for Carolina and Michael Leighton made 13 saves in relief of Cam Ward, who stopped 15 shots.

Miller made 24 saves but was pulled after Faulk's goal in favour of Jacob Markstrom, who stopped four shots.

Carolina snapped a seven-game losing streak to the Canucks, who lost four of five on their Eastern road swing.

"There's three games on that road trip we could have won that we didn't win," Desjardins said. "You've got to find ways to win those games. You just have to."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

AWARDS

Oleksiak wins Lou Marsh Trophy

You could excuse Penny Oleksiak for being a little distracted during her high school law class on Tuesday.

After winning four Olympic medals last summer in Rio, she knew she was in the mix for the Lou Marsh Trophy as Canada's athlete of the year. Oleksiak's teacher let her check her phone during class and the 16-year-old swimmer eventually got the news she was looking for.

Oleksiak was named the winner of the Toronto Star award, selected annually by a panel of sports journalists from across the country.

"It was pretty exciting when I found out," Oleksiak said on a conference call. "One of my teachers, Mr. McAlpine, is across the hallway. He was like freaking out after class when he found out. So that was fun."

Penny Oleksiak GETTY IMAGES

It was the latest accomplishment in what has been a dream year for the Toronto swimmer.

Oleksiak, who won Olympic gold in the 100-metre freestyle, served as Canadian flag-bearer at the closing ceremony. She added four more medals at the short-course world championship this month in Windsor.

"I think I really learned that I'm stronger than I think," Oleksiak said of her season.

"I think I proved to myself that I trained pretty hard last year and that I was able to exceed expectations."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

Thompson wins gold in women's ski cross

Canada's freestyle ski team continued its early success on the World Cup ski cross circuit this season, as Marielle Thompson won a gold medal and Brady Leman claimed a silver in races on Tuesday.

Thompson, from North Vancouver, B.C., picked up her second gold in three races. She was second out of the gate in the big final but quickly pulled into first and led for the rest of the race. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Caps trade for right back

The Vancouver Whitecaps have acquired right back Sheanon Williams from the Houston Dynamo for general allocation money, the club announced Tuesday.

The deal for the 26-year-old hinges on the receipt of his international transfer certificate and Canadian work permit.

Williams will likely be looked upon to fill a hole on the right side of a leaky Vancouver defence that gave up 52 goals in 2016.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

MAKE IT TONIGHT

Comforting Mushroom Cheddar Chowder

PHOTO: MAYA VISNYEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

Even mushroom skeptics will love this creamy, vitamin-rich soup.

Ready in 30 minutes
Prep time: 5 minutes
Cook time: 25 minutes
Serves 4

Ingredients
- 1/4 cup unsalted butter
- 1 large shallot, diced
- 3 cloves garlic, diced
- 1 carrot, diced
- 1 lb mushrooms, sliced (we like to use a mix of cremini and portabello)
- 2 cups vegetable stock
- 3 Tbsp spelt flour
- 1 cup milk
- 1 teaspoon salt
- Pinch of pepper
- 1/2 cup grated cheddar cheese
- 2 Tbsp sour cream or Greek yogurt

Directions

1. In large pot over medium heat, melt half the butter. Add shallot, garlic and carrot and sauté until crisp-tender. Pour in half the stock, then add mushrooms, reduce heat and simmer for 15 minutes.

2. In a small saucepan, melt rest of the butter. Gradually add flour, whisking until smooth. Add milk and bring to a boil, then immediately reduce heat and continue whisking until mixture thickens a bit, 2 to 3 minutes. Add to soup.

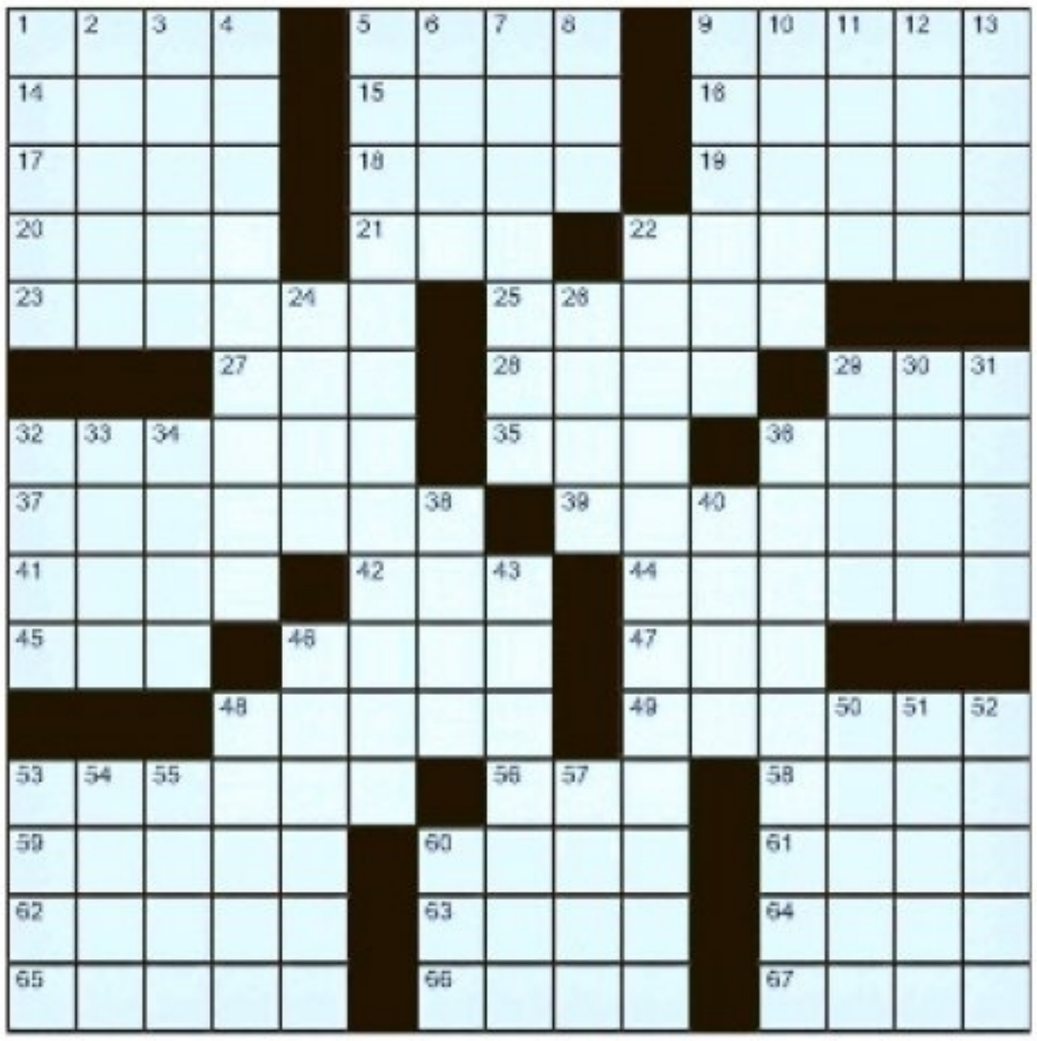
3. Stir in remaining stock. Season with salt and pepper. Remove pot from heat and, using an immersion blender, blend soup until desired consistency.

4 Ladle into bowls and serve with a helping of grated cheddar, dollop of sour cream or Greek yogurt.

FOR MORE MEAL IDEAS, VISIT SWEETPOTATOCHRONICLES.COM

CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. Marvel Comics supervillain, _ the Conqueror
5. Santa's gifts carrier
9. Sir Newton
14. Roman love god
15. Moisturizer ingredient
16. Figure out
17. Appraise
18. 'W' in WSJ
19. Muggy
20. Avoir's cohort
21. Richie, to Joanie
22. Grate
23. Austria's capital
25. Pastes
27. Driver's _.
28. Chemist's table salt
29. Stephen of "The Crying Game" (1992)
32. Hard blow sound
35. Cheers _, 1895
36. Twenty = Two _
37. Stovetop parts
39. 'Knee' and 'knot' both begin with one, _ _
41. Ripened
42. Mr. Pacino's
44. NHL team in Edmonton
45. Mr. Howard
46. Pesky fly
47. Compass dir.
48. 1999 flick in which Alanis Morissette plays God
49. Big name in fine art in Canada (Where the masterpiece at #50-Down went to the highest bidder)
53. _ lights (Hollywood premiere illuminators)
56. One plus One's answer
58. Scottish singer Donovan's actress daughter Ms. Skye
59. On _ _ (Winning)
60. Boyfriend
61. _, _ Hubbard (Scientology founder)
62. Novel's name
63. "_ fair in love..."
64. Gladiator's 2051
65. Discharge
66. Actor, Dick Van _
67. Slitherer's noises

DOWN
1. Alex _ ("Grey's Anatomy" character)
2. Violin-making family
3. _-Dame Cathedral, in Paris
4. Where Nuuk is the capital city
5. #9-Down is part of the what in the Canadian Rockies in Alberta?: 2 wds.
6. Wing-like
7. Fellow's fragrance
8. Ms. Ripa, to pals
9. Mount _ (Peak depicted in the circa 1926 oil on canvas at #50-Down)
10. Turns, as milk
11. _ mater
12. Keen
13. Relinquish control
22. Firm such as #49-Across: 2 wds.
24. Kind
26. Glasgow gal
29. Mr. Auberjonois
30. _'acte (Intermission)
31. Inquires
32. Ski lift
33. Men's label, _ Boss
34. Songbird variety
36. Made-for-TV movies
38. Hip poetry show
40. Extra's delivery on set
43. Distinguished
46. Medieval 'mug'
48. Barbie and Ken
50. As per #49-Across... Mountain _ (Group of Seven artist Lawren Harris' painting which recently sold for a record-breaking $11.21 million)
51. Organic compounds
52. German filmmaker Ms. Riefenstahl's
53. Fill, as hunger
54. Li'l math course
55. Automatic
57. Stroll
60. U2 song

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS Your daily horoscope by Francis Drake

Aries March 21 - April 20
Today your focus is on home and family. If you get a chance, you will prefer to cocoon at home and hide from the busy world out there.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
You have a need to communicate with others today, which is why it's a good day to talk to siblings, relatives and neighbors. It's time to plug in to the local gossip scene.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
If shopping today, you will be more emotional than usual about what you choose to buy. Yes, this could lead to retail therapy.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
Today the Moon is in your sign, which will make you more emotional than usual about practically anything. However, it also improves your luck.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
Work alone or behind the scenes today, because that will make you feel better. You want to pull in and hide somewhat. Take a breather from your busy social life.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
A conversation with a female acquaintance might be meaningful today. In fact, this conversation might actually prompt you to modify or change your future goals.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Personal details about your private life may become public today. Be aware of this in case you have to do some damage control.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Take a trip or do something different today, because you need a change of scenery. At least change your daily routine. Visit an exotic restaurant.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
) Today you might want to take care of loose details about inheritances and shared property, because that would be appropriate. (But you won't want to let go of something.)

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Be prepared to go more than halfway when dealing with others, because the Moon is opposite your sign today. This simply requires a little tolerance and compromise.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Make an extra effort today to do something to help you feel better organized. Put your papers in neat little piles; clean out the backseat of your car. Do something.

Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
This is a playful, flirtatious and prankish day! Enjoy fun times with others, especially younger people. You might extend an invitation to a social event to a boss.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

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	6			9			3	
2		5	7			9		
						8		1
	1						4	
3		7						
		1			7	6		8
	8			6			5	
		9			5			

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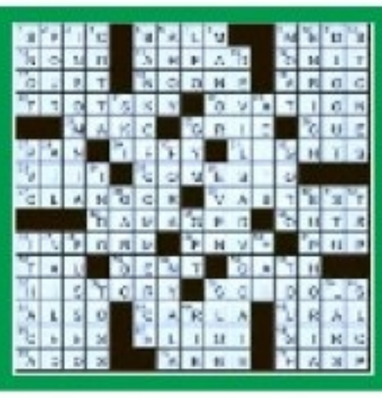

4	3	2	9	5	1	7	8	6
1	7	6	4	2	8	3	9	5
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9	2	4	7	1	3	6	5	8
7	8	5	2	4	6	9	1	3
3	6	1	8	9	5	2	7	4
6	4	7	1	8	2	5	3	9
2	1	3	5	6	9	8	4	7
8	5	9	3	7	4	1	6	2

The Evergreen Extension now provides a faster, more convenient and more reliable transit option for you. The introduction of rapid transit into the Tri-Cities provides an opportunity to revise the bus network, enhance bus service and provide direct connections to the SkyTrain and West Coast Express.

Starting December 19, Community Shuttle buses across the Tri-Cities are being renamed. Make sure to look for the new bus number as opposed to the type of vehicle at their stop!

Some of the changes are outlined below. To see all bus route changes, visit **translink.ca/servicechanges**.

New Service

191 Coquitlam Central Station/Princeton

- Provides service to the Burke Mountain neighbourhood every 30 minutes from 5:30 a.m. to 10 p.m.
- Operates seven days a week, with slightly later start times on the weekends.
- Connects customers to the Evergreen Extension and West Coast Express.

171 Fremont/Coquitlam Central Station
172 Riverside/Coquitlam Central Station

- Previously C37. We're introducing new bus service to Dominion Triangle and enhancing service to provide direct connections to the Evergreen Extension and West Coast Express.

Discontinued Service

97 B-Line

- Some of the existing 97 B-Line stops will be served by the new Evergreen Extension.
- For local bus stops not served by SkyTrain, take the **160** or **180**.

178 Port Moody Station/Coquitlam Station
190 Coquitlam Station/Vancouver

- Some of the existing 178 and 190 stops will be served by the new Evergreen Extension.

West Coast Express TrainBus

- Effective **January 3, 2017**
- Most TrainBus customers will have more travel options using SkyTrain and the 701.

Shortened Routes

160 Port Coquitlam Station/Kootenay Loop

- The **160** ends at Kootenay Loop as the Evergreen Extension will provide a faster, more frequent and more reliable connection to Downtown Vancouver.

Expanded Service

143 Burquitlam Station/SFU

- The **143** (previously Coquitlam Station/SFU) now connects SFU and Burquitlam Station with a high-capacity, all-day service to SFU.

151 Coquitlam Central Station/Burquitlam Station

- The **151** (previously Coquitlam Station/Lougheed Station) runs seven days a week between Coquitlam Central and Burquitlam stations along Como Lake Avenue.

153 Braid Station/Coquitlam Central Station

- The **153** (previously Braid Station/Coquitlam Rec Centre) now extends from Poirier Community Centre to Coquitlam Central Station via Mariner Way.
- Uses a Community Shuttle bus

157 Lougheed Station/Burquitlam Station

- The **157** (previously Coquitlam Rec Centre/Lougheed Station extends from Poirier Community Centre to Burquitlam Station.
- Uses a Community Shuttle bus

701 Coquitlam Central Station/Mission City Station
701 Coquitlam Central Station/Haney Place/Maple Ridge East

- Customers will have to access to select **701** trips that will be extended from Haney Place to and from Mission. The **701** schedule has the same arrivals and departures from Mission as the TrainBus.

180 Moody Centre Station/Lougheed Station

- The 180 (previously C24 Port Moody Station/Lougheed Station) operates with a 40-foot bus and 15-minute frequency during peak periods.

188 Port Coquitlam Station/Coquitlam Central Station

- The **188** increases capacity with larger bus at all times.

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